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SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
BOARD OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES

4 December 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Allan Evans (OIR)
Colonel Gerald F. Lillard, USA (G-2)
Captain Allan L. Reed, USN (ONI)
Colonel Jack E. Thomas, USAF (AFON-2A)
Captain John A. Holbrook, USN (JIG)

SUBJECT : NIE-78: Estimate of Likelihood of General
War Within the Next Decade (formerly
"Estimate of Soviet Intentions Over the
Next Decade")

1. Pursuant to discussion in the IAC meeting on 1 December, I attach for your consideration, certain amendments to the text of NIE-78 dated 28 November (circulated under covering memorandum dated 29 November).

2. We now propose to hold the first meeting of the IAC representatives at 10:00 Friday, December 12, and, if feasible, to have the estimate ready for IAC consideration on December 18.

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Executive Secretary

Distribution "B"

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES

4 December 1952

SUBJECT: Amendments to NEE-78

A. Change title from "Estimate of Likelihood of General War within the Next Decade" to read "Estimate of Soviet Intentions over the Forthcoming Decade".

B. Delete present para. 1 and substitute the following:

1. Although we do not consider global war inevitable, we believe that the world situation is such that the odds are greater than even that global war will come within the next decade. The cold war will soon enter its eighth year. The armaments race is intense. Ideological differences and the Iron Curtain prevent both normal diplomatic negotiation between the governments, and contact between the peoples, of the Bloc and of the West. Although there is widespread fear of the consequences of a war fought with new weapons, this fear alone is unlikely to prevent the coming of war.

2. The existing hostility between the Soviet Bloc and the Western nations headed by the US will almost certainly continue. The rulers of the USSR assert that capitalism and communism cannot continue to co-exist indefinitely. The Communists accept the possibility of periods of stalemate. From time to time, as a tactical maneuver, they may bring about a temporary relaxation of tensions. They do not accept the possibility of a general settlement with the West.

C. Renumber existing paras. 2 through 9 to read 3 through 10.

D. Delete present para. 10.

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